

July 19 1946

Mr Wendell Smith
Pittsburg Courier
Pittsburg Pa.

Dear Friend:

I should have written you long ago, but honestly I really did not know how to start. You of course know what your column meant to both Abe and me. Most of our sportwriters have the courage of their convictions, but not many of them have the courage to write a column like you did.

In that column you were telling all your readers "The Hanleys" were alright. I want you to know all the headaches I have had up to now were cured when I read that story. It made me realize you know what we have been through.

Things in our organization are not greatly improved. We still have a long way to go. But there is some improvement, and the important thing is large crowds of Negroes have some where to go for healthy entertainment. Up to the baseball start, you must admit, there was not a lot of entertainment for the average working man. When you consider we only make up one tenth of the population, and draw crowds of five and ten thousand it means most of our folks have no where else to go, that is for good healthy outdoor entertainment.

I am not asking you to accept conditions as they are. We still have a long way to go, but I do think you could help us by trying to continue to educate the owners. Heavens knows they need it.

Do you expect to be in this neighborhood any time soon. I would love to talk to you. In the meantime thanks a million for the nice column. Abe and I will never let you down. We will continue to try to build this big important business as long as we are in it. Thanks for help from people like you.

Sincerely Yours